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## Watchdog" Group Performs Vital Service To CIA As Well As Public

Last March Senate Foreign Relations: to the Senate floor, where, after an unbright wrote to a Democratic colleague, vively defeated, 61-28. Sen. Richard B. Russell, distinguished. But that did not an Sen. Richard B. Russell, distinguished Sen. Richard B. Russell, distinguished chairman of the Senate Armed Forces controversy continued as to whether Committee, and observed what only Congress is providing sufficient "legisthe utterly unobservant could have failed to notice, i.e., that the Central

Such being the case, "I wonder," the Arkansas Democrat wrote, "what you." the Foreign Relations Committee" to the CIA "watch-dog" sub-committee, which is made up of Armed Services and Appropriations Committee members and is headed by the distinguished senator from Alabama.

Senator Russell thought poorly of the idea. He said he could see no reason why the Foreign Relations Committee should "muscle in" to someone else's territory. So Senator Fulbright and like-minded members brought a resolu-tion to expand the "watchdog" panel

Committee Chairman J. William Ful- usual secret session, they were decis-

lative oversight" for the CIA "spooks."
The Senate had voted as it did in Intelligence Agency's activities have a large part because of the members' profound effect on America's foreign natural reluctance to overrule a respected senior chairman and especially one so respected as Senator Russell.

And now the able Georgia Demothink of informally adding members of crat has given another indication of why he is held in such general esteem. Without being pressured, he has invited Senator Fulbright and two of his Foreign Relations Committee colleagues to attend closed sessions of the CIA "Watchdog" Committee, and he says he intends to continue to invite them to all the meetings, at least during this session of Congress.

One may argue that an official change might have been for the better, but one may also argue that it is, after all, results that count. The CIA is, by law and by the nature of its responsibilities a secret agency. But Congress, under the Constitution, has its own responsibilities. The additional surveillance should be useful both to the CIA and to Congress-and to the public.